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Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session

Observer status for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in the General Assembly

Letter dated 4 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly I have the honour to request the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, entitled "Observer status for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum on the matter has been attached (see annex I), as well as a draft resolution (see annex II).

I have the further honour to request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Anthony B. **Severin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia

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Annex I to the letter dated 4 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Explanatory memorandum: Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) was established by the Treaty of Basseterre in 1981. OECS comprises nine members, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. OECS is an international organization, and it has been duly registered with the United Nations pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The main purposes of OECS are to promote cooperation, unity and solidarity among its members and to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence; to assist its members in the realization of their obligations and responsibilities to the international community; to seek to achieve the fullest possible harmonization of foreign policy among it members; and to promote economic integration among its members.

In keeping with this framework of cooperation, OECS has undertaken a number of initiatives. Members have also adopted a development charter and strategy and have agreed to work towards an economic union. In so doing, focus has been given to trade liberalization, taking into account the regional and international obligations of members. Attention is also being given the human and social development, judicial and legal reforms, agricultural reform, education reform and telecommunications reform. Poverty alleviation and the development of an efficient social service delivery system has also informed the regional agenda. Members of OECS are also very concerned about the HIV/AIDS pandemic and are engaged in a number of initiatives to address this problem, along with other health issues. A comprehensive regional strategy is also being implemented to ensure the proper sustainable development and management of resources. This framework has been articulated through the St. George's Declaration. Regional cooperation is also evident in the strengthening of air and sea ports services and the development of a regional tourism project. Members of OECS are also of the view that a secure environment is an important component of economic, social and political development. Consequently, they are committed to meeting their international, regional and domestic security obligations.

With the concerted efforts of its members, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States provides an effective cooperation mechanism for enhancing the economic and social development of its members, supported by good governance practices and respect for human rights, with due regard to the role of international law as a standard of conduct in the relationship between States.

Annex II to the letter dated 4 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States,

1. *Decides* to invite the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly in the capacity of Observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.